

BICYCLE FRIENDLY.

THE SOUTH BEND BIKEWAY — AN EMERGING 94-MILE NETWORK OF OFF-STREET TRAILS, ON-STREET BICYCLE LANES AND SIGNED BIKE ROUTES — IS JUST ONE OF THE FEATURES THAT MAKES SOUTH BEND THE FIRST BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN INDIANA.

‘REMARKABLE COMMITMENTS TO BICYCLING’

South Bend is among a select group of cities to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Nationally recognized with an elite quality-of-life measure, South Bend was named in fall 2010 as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. Included among 190 communities in 46 states (five in Indiana), South Bend ranks in the top one-half of 1 percent of U.S. cities in demonstrating a strong commitment to promote, encourage and accommodate bicycling. The four-year designation is up for renewal in July 2014.



SOUTH BEND BIKEWAY

Above all, a Bicycle Friendly Community provides space for bicyclists to ride. The South Bend Bikeway is an emerging network designed to encourage bicycling by recreational riders, students and bike commuters. It links popular destinations, including schools, libraries, parks and shopping centers, with convenient routes for bicyclists. With clear markings for riders, the South Bend Bikeway features three types of paths:



- Off-street, multipurpose paths
- Painted bike lanes on city streets
- Designated bicycle routes where cyclists share the road with motorized traffic

Nearly all residents live within a half-mile of the South Bend Bikeway, which will consist of nearly 34 miles of separated trails, 18 miles of striped bicycle lanes and 42 miles of shared routes. A map is available at www.SouthBendIN.gov/bike.

BIKE THE BEND

South Bend hosts a variety of community rides, mountain bike competitions and road races. In 2010, Bike the Bend, a non-competitive ride targeting youth and families, drew nearly 1,800 recreational bicyclists to the streets of South Bend, Mishawaka and St. Joseph County. Now an annual event each May, Bike the Bend highlights the beauty of the St. Joseph River, the character of city neighborhoods, and the features of area parks and college campuses. City streets along the 40-mile route are closed to motorized traffic, enhancing rider enjoyment and safety. For more information, visit www.BiketheBend.com.



BICYCLE FRIENDLY.



BIKE-FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT

Encouraging bicycling as an alternative form of transportation ranked among the top priorities identified by residents in City Plan, South Bend's 20-year comprehensive plan (adopted in 2006). South Bend in 2010 shared in a Local Government Cooperation Award from the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (with Mishawaka and St. Joseph County) for government responsiveness to the first Bike the Bend ride. The City of South Bend has designated a Bicycle Coordinator to facilitate planning with local bike advocacy groups.

In his 2007 State of the City address, then-Mayor Steve Luecke said city crews would:

- Develop 10 miles of major east-west and north-south bike routes annually from 2007 through 2011.
- Complete by 2012 a multipurpose trail along the St. Joseph River from South Bend's eastern edge at Logan Street to the northern boundary at Darden Road.

Route planning in South Bend has been conducted in cooperation with the Bike Michiana Coalition (www.BikeMichiana.org), a nonprofit advocacy organization representing several local bicycle groups. In addition, a Bike South Bend Committee is working to elevate South Bend's bronze status as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

A CYCLING COMMUNITY

Bike to Work Week each May draws hundreds of cyclists to activities. Bicycle racks have been added along public streets and near key facilities, while a City ordinance requires new, large commercial developments to include bicycle parking. Transpo (the metropolitan area's public bus transportation) includes bicycle racks on the front of all buses to help cyclists blend public transportation with bicycle use. Planning efforts seek collaboration and connection with emerging bike routes in Mishawaka and St. Joseph County. The active engagement of cyclists in the South Bend area has helped to increase bicycling alternatives and make South Bend a more livable community.

For more information, visit:
www.SouthBendIN.gov/bike.



CONTACT Chris Dressel,
Bicycle Coordinator, City of South Bend
CDressel@SouthBendIN.gov
574-235-5847
www.SouthBendIN.gov/bike

DID YOU KNOW?

- South Bend led Indiana cities for bicycle commuting, according to 2008 U.S. Census estimates.
- South Bend began installing the first trails along the St. Joseph River in 1975.
- The East Bank Trail, opened in 1988, was among Indiana's first Rails to Trails conversions.
- Rum Village Park has a mountain bike trail more than five miles long maintained by the Northern Indiana Mountain Bike Association.
- The South Bend Parks & Recreation Department has 10-speed touring bikes and exercise bicycles available for rental on summer weekends along the East Race.
- South Bend is home to The Kitchen, the Midwest's largest BMX and skate park. www.thekitchenskatepark.com